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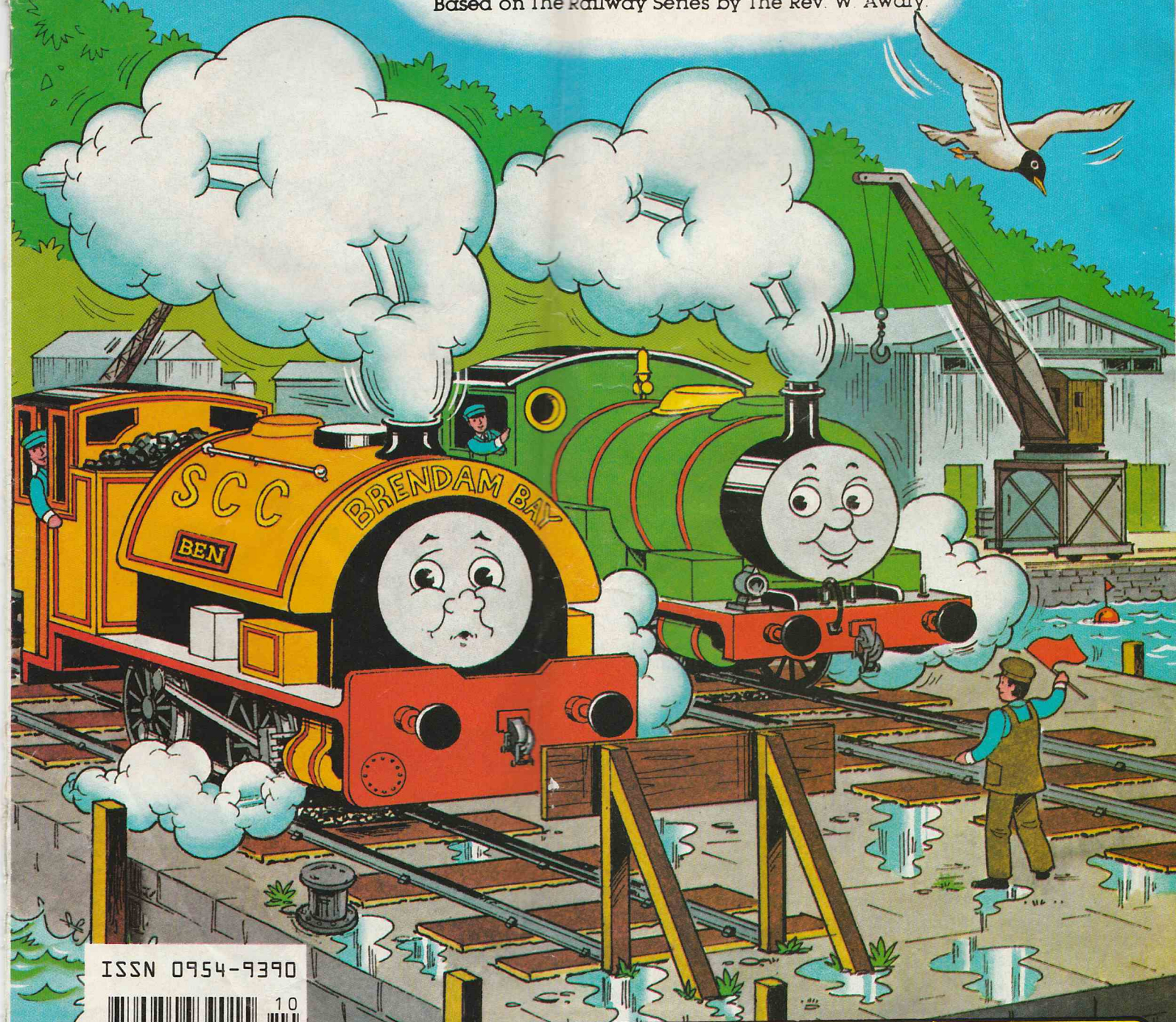
No. 63 45p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry



Hard at work at the Harbour!

ISSN 0954-9390

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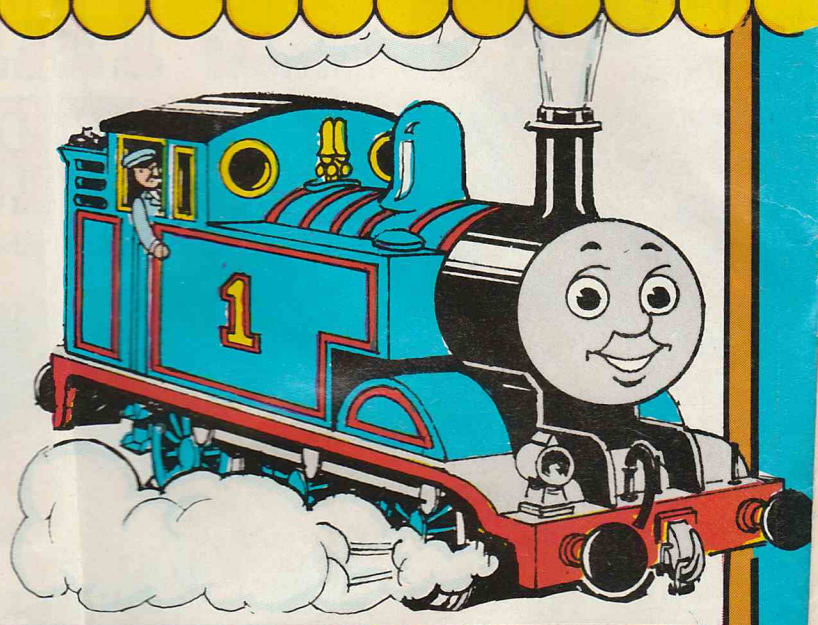
THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Bill and Ben the Saddle Tank Engine twins have had a silly argument. The Fat Controller has overheard them and decides to send them both to work on different lines! Bill has been sent to the clay pits, while Ben has gone down to the Big Harbour! Peep! Peep!



EVERY ISSUE!

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There is another way of joining the **Thomas Club** without taking out a year's subscription. Just collect 3 tokens like the one on the bottom of this page. Send one **yellow,** one **red** and **green** token, together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Please allow 28 days for delivery of your very own little black and white membership card plus number!

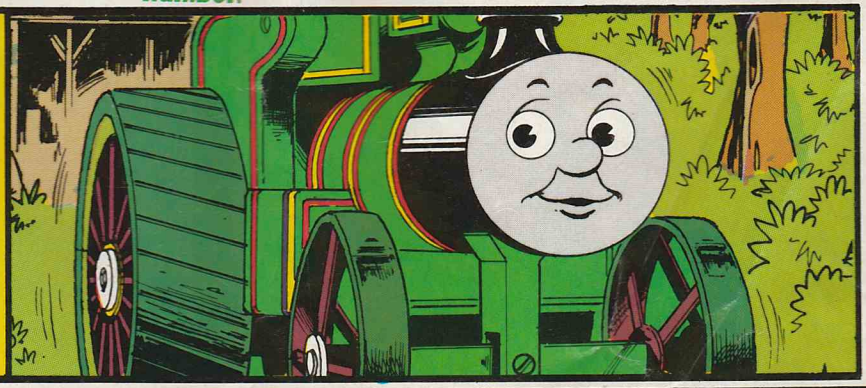
WELCOME!

The Fat Controller would like to say a special hello to the following readers:

Marcus Morphew (29802), aged 3, **Neil King,** aged 5, **David Hughes** (11107), aged 3, **Jenny Richards,** aged 4 and **Gareth Morgan** (17584), aged 7.

If you'd like a special hello from the Fat Controller, please send him details at the address shown on the letters page.

In our next issue: Trevor the Traction Engine saves the day!



THOMAS TOKEN

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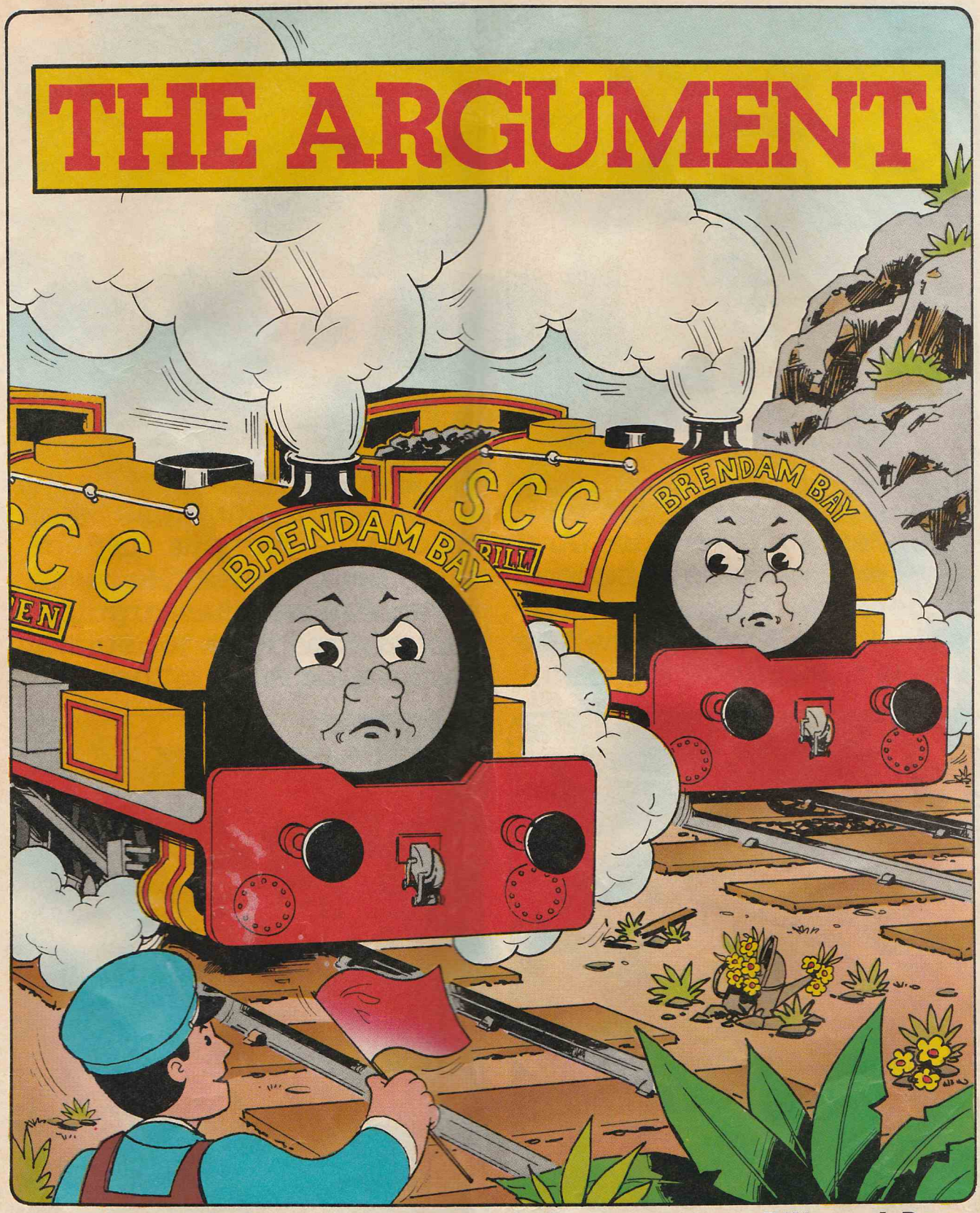
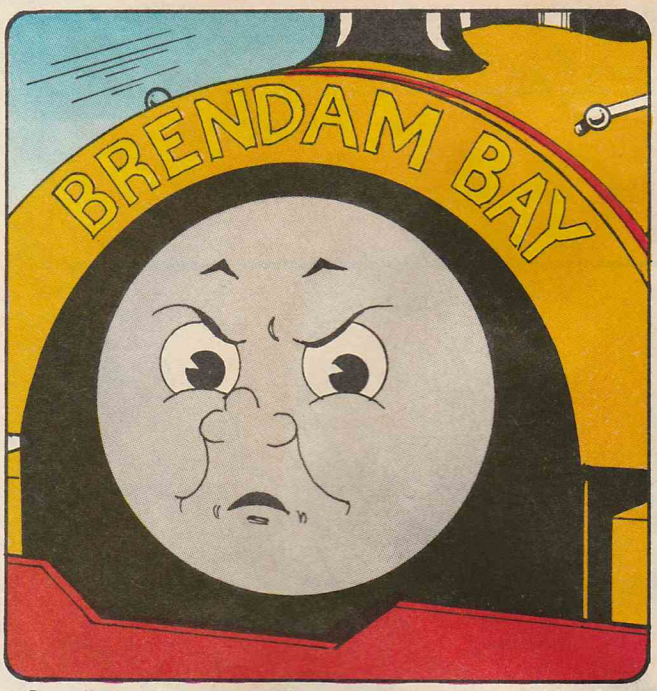
ABC

A listen and look story!

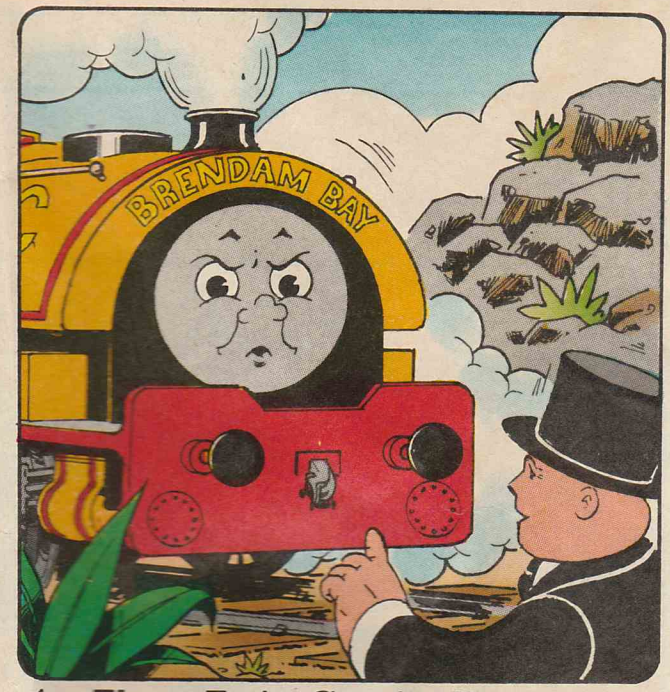


1. Bill and Ben are twin saddle tank engines. They work at the clay pits, shunting trucks full of china clay. They are rather cheeky, but are the best of friends.

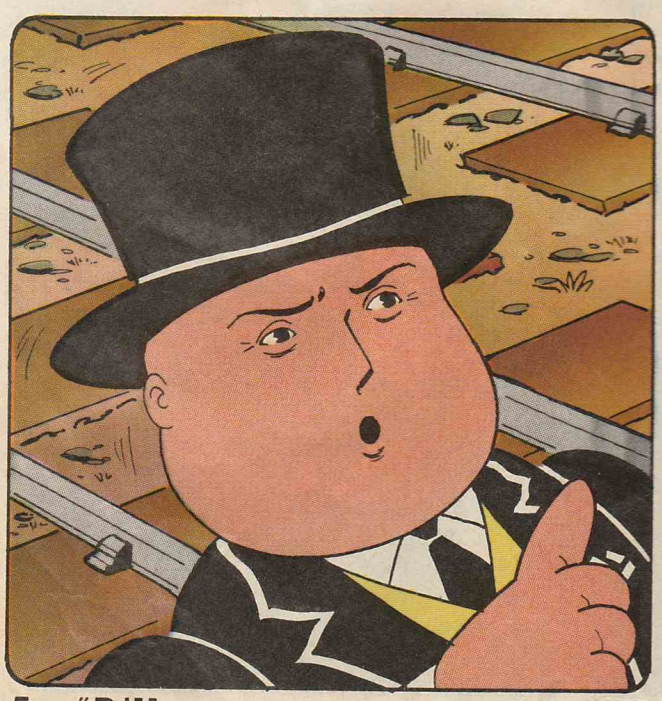
2. But one day, Bill and Ben had an argument. "I can move more trucks than you, Bill," said Ben. This made Ben cross. "No, you can't," he said.



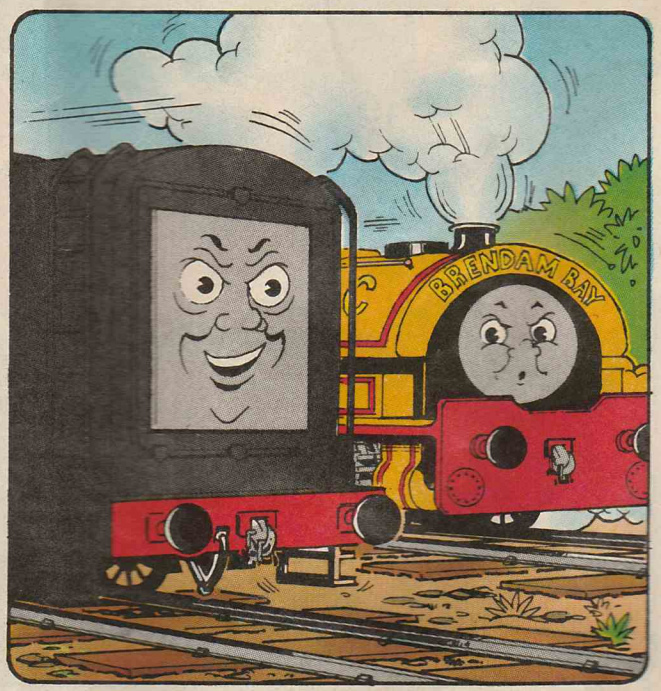
3. "I'm much stronger than you, Ben," Bill went on. "And my wheels don't squeak either." Ben steamed crossly at this. "Neither do mine," he replied angrily.



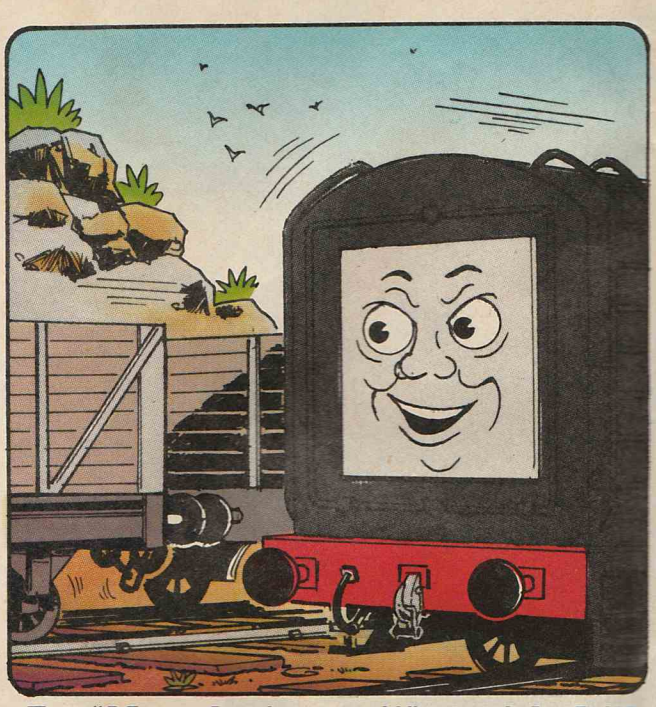
4. The Fat Controller was also at the clay pits, inspecting the engines. He overheard Bill and Ben arguing. "If you can't work together, I shall separate you," he said.



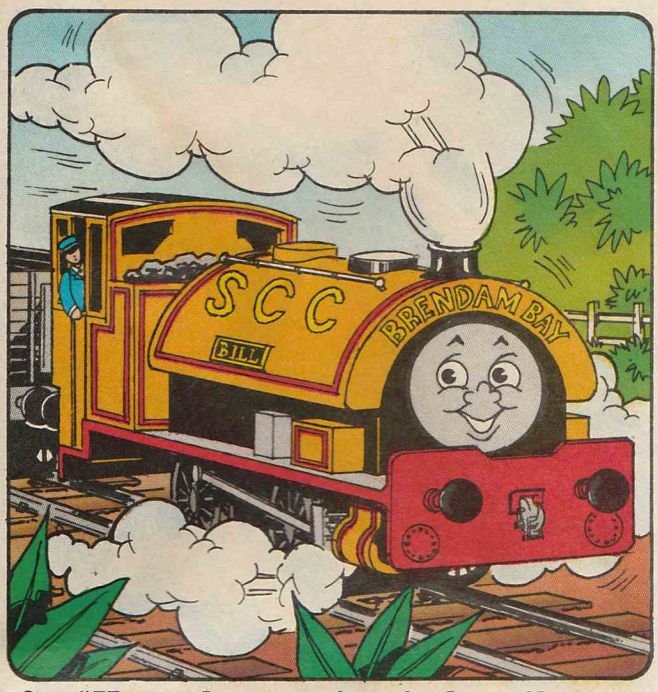
5. "Bill, you can work on another line with Diesel and Ben can work in the harbour," said the Fat Controller. The twins were pleased to be separated.



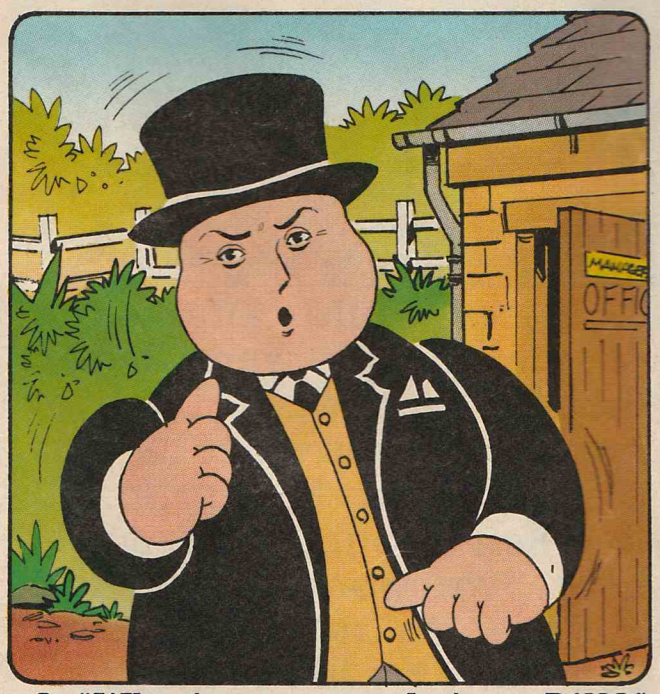
6. "Hullo," said Diesel in his oily voice when Bill arrived to shunt the trucks. "Had a tiff with Ben, have you? Don't worry. He's a silly engine anyway."



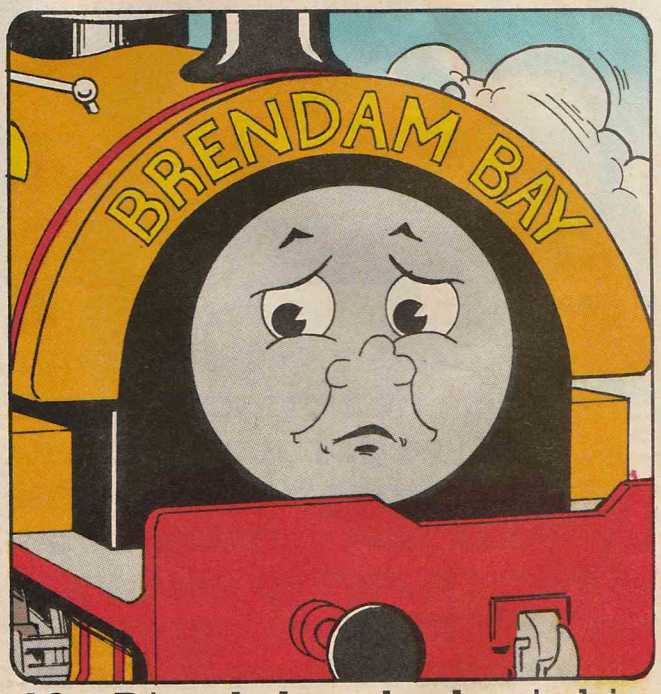
7. "No, he's not!" said Bill sharply. "He's my twin. Now which trucks do I have to move?" Diesel decided that he was going to play a trick on Bill.



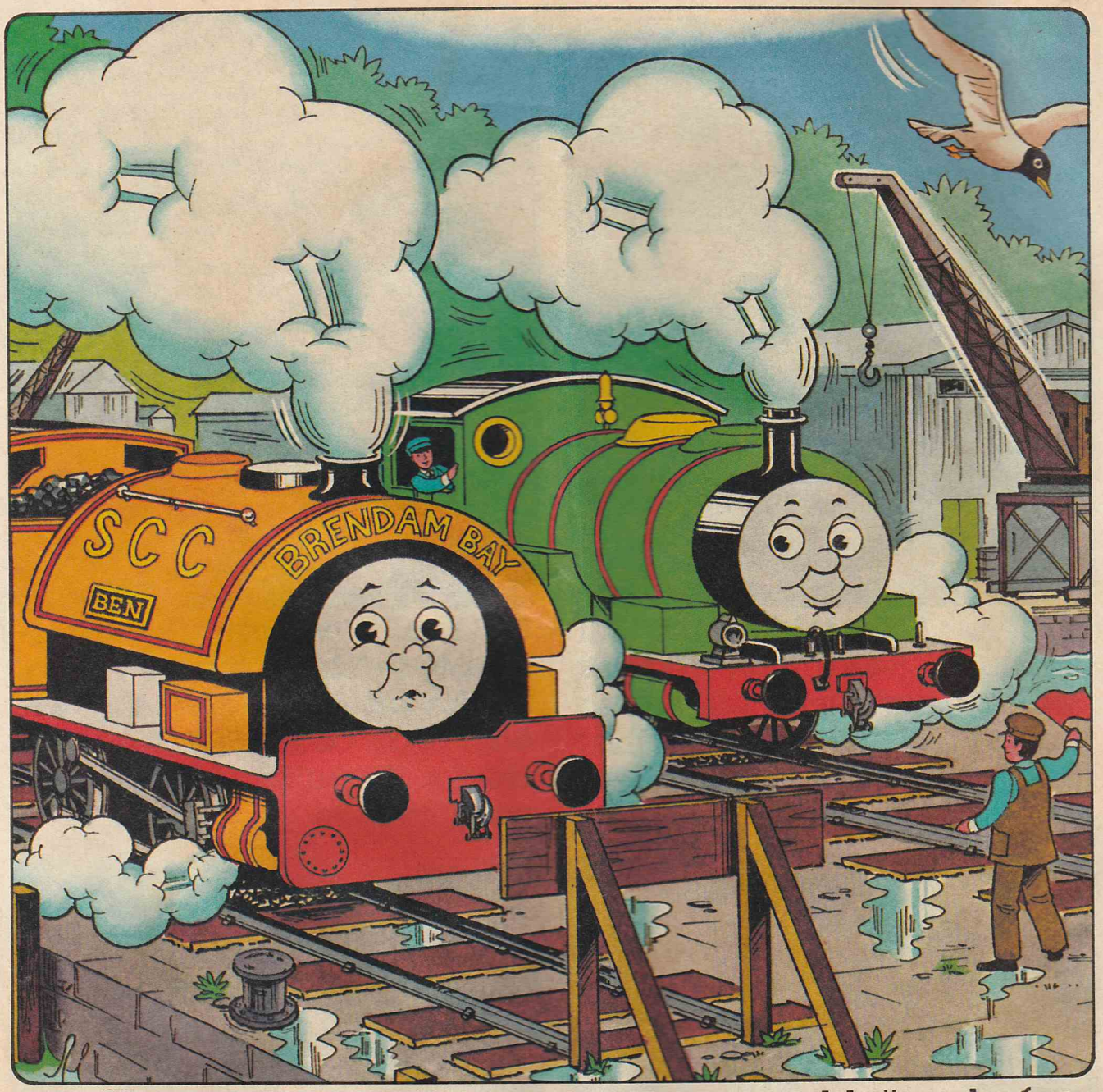
8. "You have to take these empty trucks to the entrance of the clay pit," he said. So Bill was coupled to the trucks. He pulled them to the pit entrance.



9. "What are you doing, Bill?" demanded the Fat Controller, running out of the pit manager's office. "These trucks should be shunted to the other end of the pit!"



10. Diesel laughed at his joke. Bill was sad. "I don't want to work with Diesel anymore. It was a lot more fun when Ben was here."



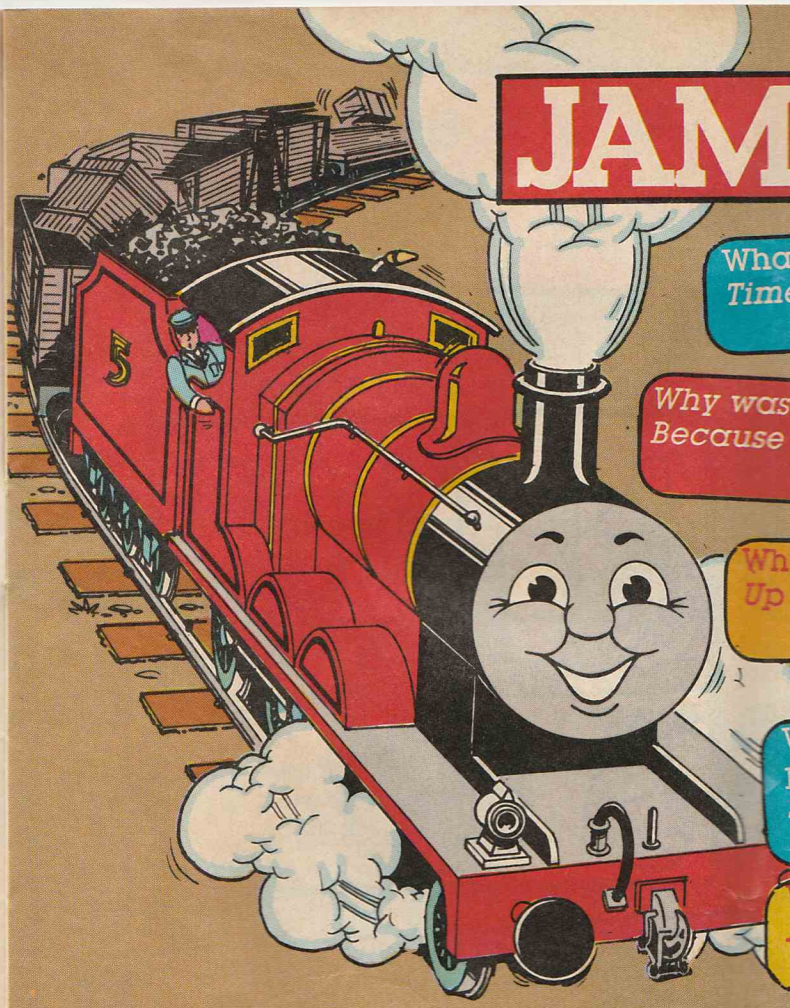
11. Meanwhile, Ben was pulling the trucks to the harbour. He wasn't enjoying his work at all. "I've got no one to talk to," he sighed. "And these bothersome trucks are always bumping me on purpose." When he arrived at the harbour, Percy made fun of him. "Where's Bill, Ben? You've left him behind!" he chuckled.

12. "Percy wouldn't make fun of me if Bill were here," thought Ben. When Ben got back to the clay pits he was pleased to see Bill again. Bill told Ben about Diesel's nasty trick. "We were silly to fall out over an argument," said Ben. "Let's be friends again!" Bill was glad to have Ben back again.

THE END

In our next issue: Thomas and the film!

JAMES'S JAPES



What time is it when you meet a crocodile?
Time to run!
Michael, aged 6.

Why was Cinderella no good at football?
Because her coach was a pumpkin!
Philip, aged 7.

Where does a general keep his armies?
Up his sleevies!
Daniel, aged 4.

Why did the football manager flood the pitch?
So he could bring on the sub!
Trevor, aged 8.

What flies and wobbles?
A jellycopter!
Lisa, aged 4.

Every month!

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Signature I AM OVER 18 .....

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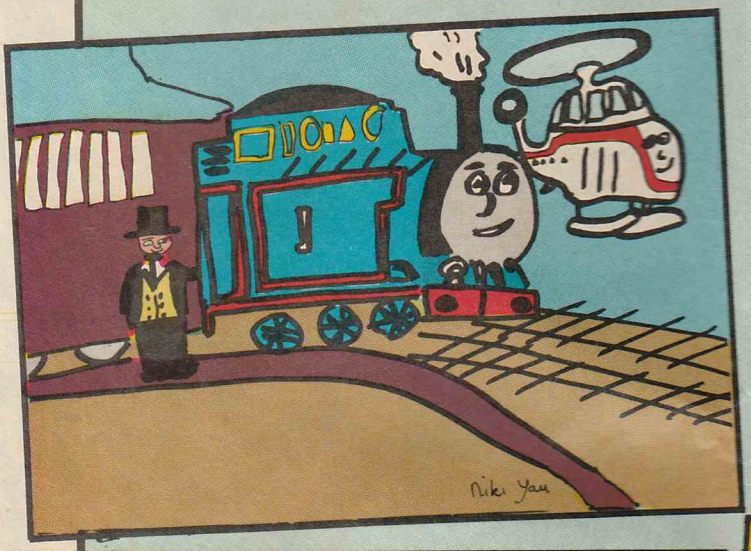
I wish to pay by Visa/MasterCard; please charge to my account. My card number is (13 or 16 digits):

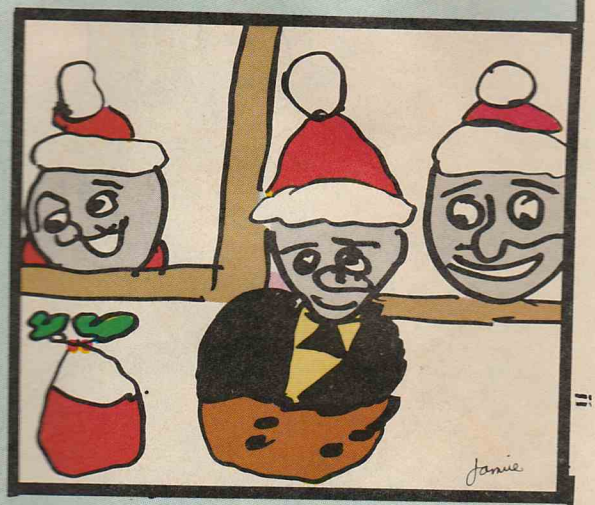
Signature Expiry date /

YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

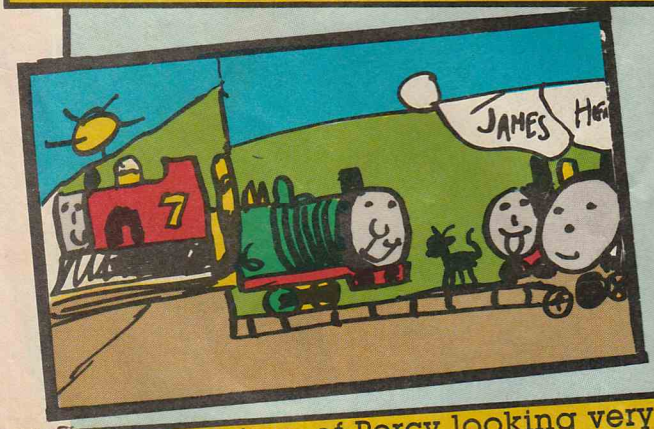
Here are just a few of the many splendid drawings that you have sent us. Can you see your picture?



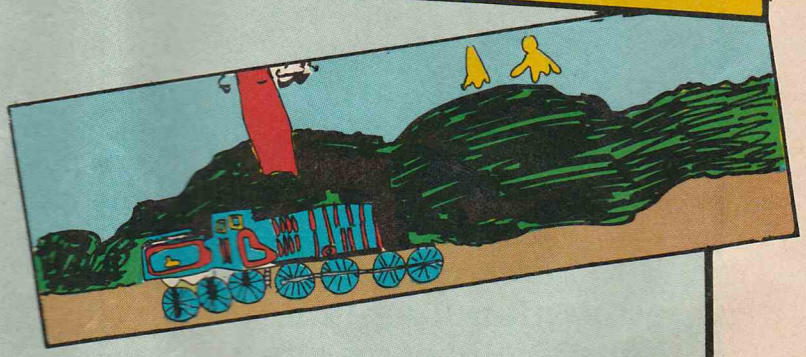
This picture of the Fat Controller looking very jolly indeed as he waves goodbye to Thomas and Harold was drawn by **Niki Yau**, aged 5, from Kent. Well done, Niki!



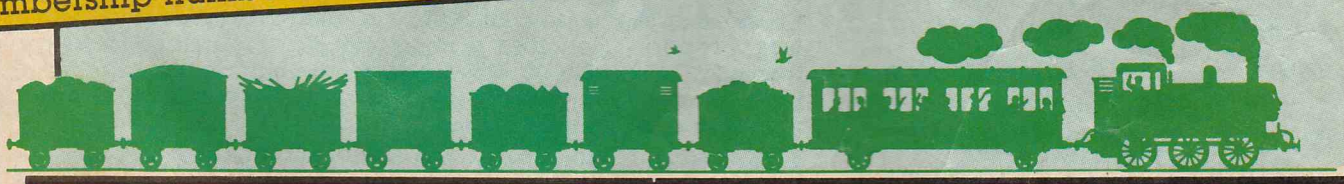
Here is a picture of the Fat Controller doing his Christmas cooking. Can you see Thomas and James watching with their hats on? This picture was sent in by **Jamie Fowler.**



This splendid picture of Percy looking very cheerful indeed was sent in by **Thomas Pritchard,** aged 5, from Nottingham. His membership number is 3788.

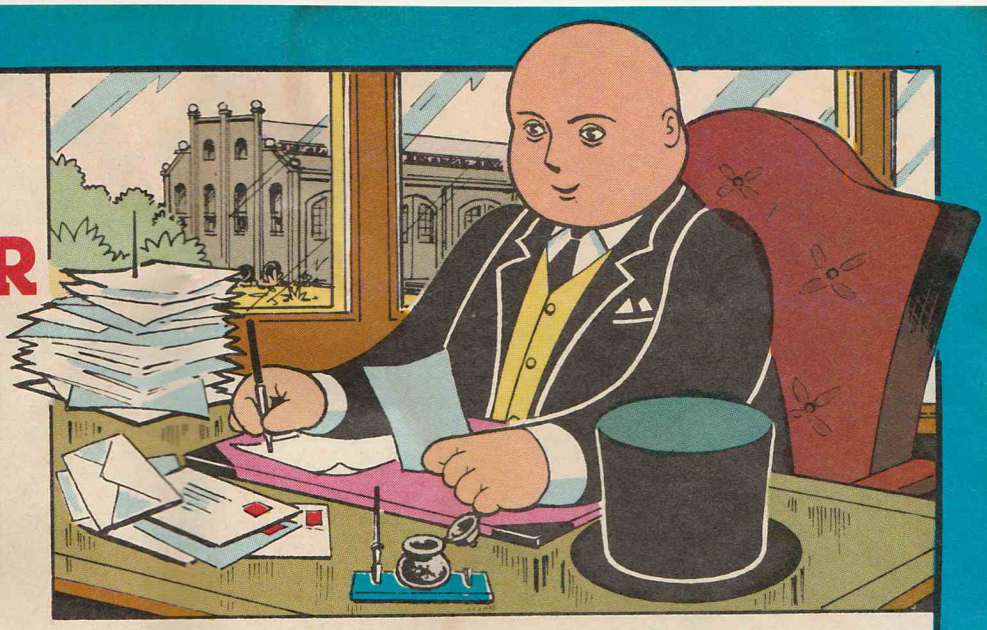


Can you see Edward happily chugging past the hillside? This drawing was sent in by **Julian Richards,** aged 6, from Cornwall.



Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry that we could not print every one! If you would like to draw a picture for us, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Pictures Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

★★★★★★★★★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I am going on holiday to the Isle of Wight. My mummy says that it will be the same as the Island of Sodor! Do you think that I will see any engines like Thomas and Gordon there?
Love from **David,** aged 5.
Gracious me! *I must agree that the Isle of Wight is a splendid choice for a holiday! I am sure that you are bound to see some steam and diesel engines while you are there! Have a good time now!*

★★★★★★★★★

David wins a splendid Thomas the Tank remote control engine from *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

PULLING TRAINS!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you ever allow Diesel to pull passenger trains?
From **Simon,** aged 6.
Deary me, no . . . Diesel is much too mischievous to be trusted with such an important job! I much prefer him to shunt the trucks – a job where he can only get up to a limited amount of mischief!

BIRTHDAY PRESENT!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy wonders what you bought Lady Topham Hatt for her birthday? Did Thomas or one of his friends deliver the present?
Love from **Rhys,** aged 3.
Well, well . . . as a matter of fact there was a story about my dear wife's birthday present in issue 61! But, just in case you missed it . . . I bought her a splendid dressing gown and Percy delivered it for me!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best wishes go to:

Shane Ryan Baker (0524), Michael Smart, Claire McDonald, Toni Underwood, David Rixan (21457), Craig Johnson, Adrian Brown (31492), Ian Morris, Adam Walker (27618), Louise Clarke, Alan James Partridge, David Chatterton, John Litchfield, Rebecca Jane Morley (23200), Sarah Jane Marsden, Jonathon Foster (9368), Paul Atkins, David Williams, Paul Mason, Shane Dremer (30289), Simon Edmunds and Russell Anthony Gates (31056).

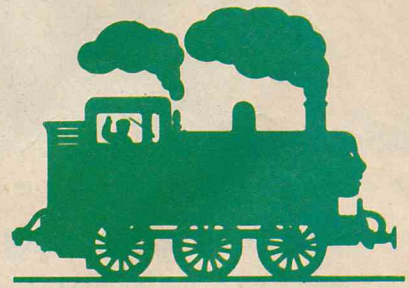
Many happy returns to you all!

If you'd like a mention here, just send details on a **postcard** please, at least 9 weeks in advance!

Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.



Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Over the ma

Who is pulling Annie and Clarabel?
How many things are flying?
Are they all birds?
Point to the toad!

What colour are the s
Are they swimming?
Count the birdwatche
Have you ever looked

narshes!

the swans?

ng?

itchers!

oked through binoculars?

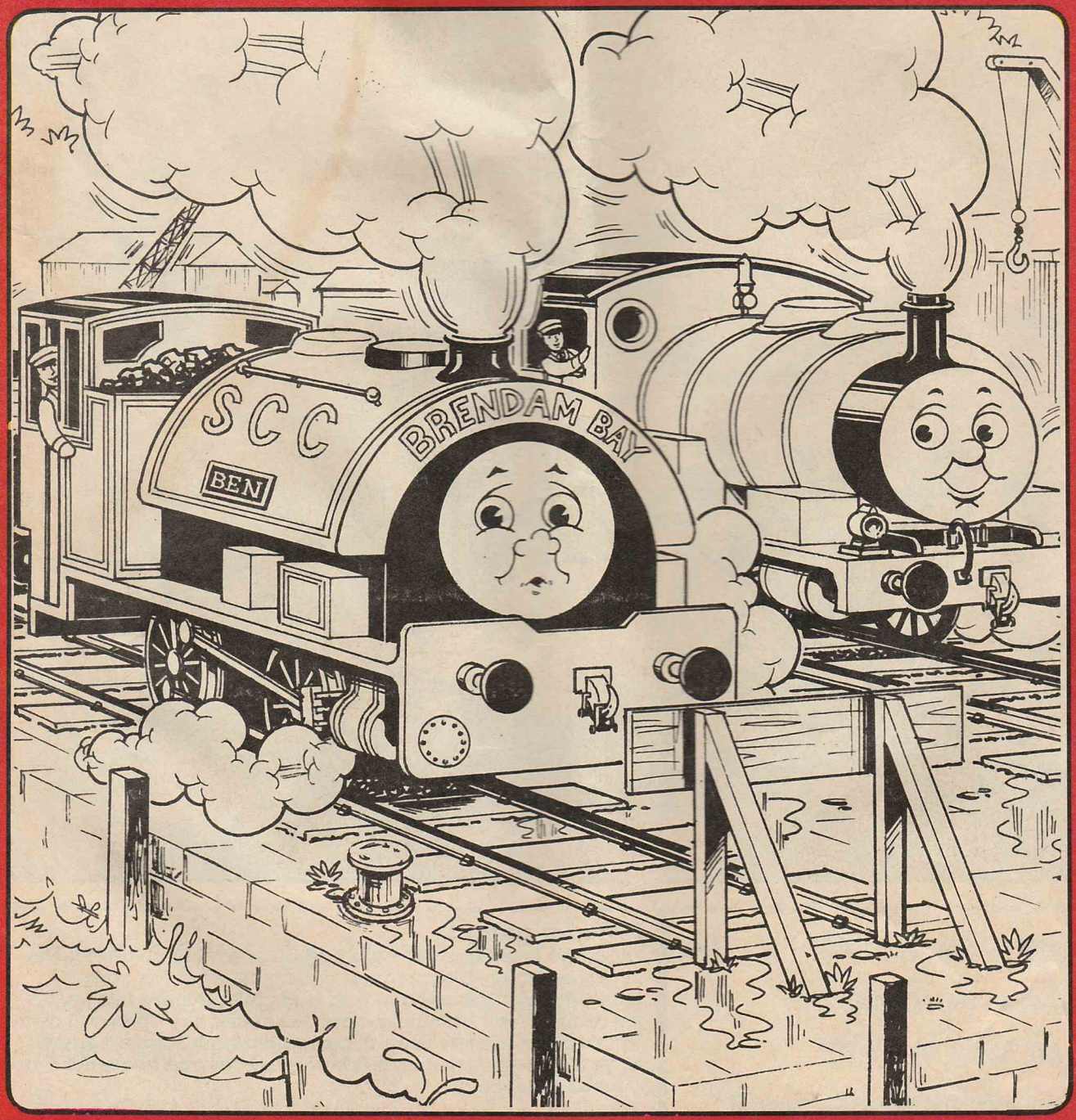
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Past the fishermen!

COLOURING TIME!

Percy and Ben are down by the sea, Now colour them in – as bright as can be!

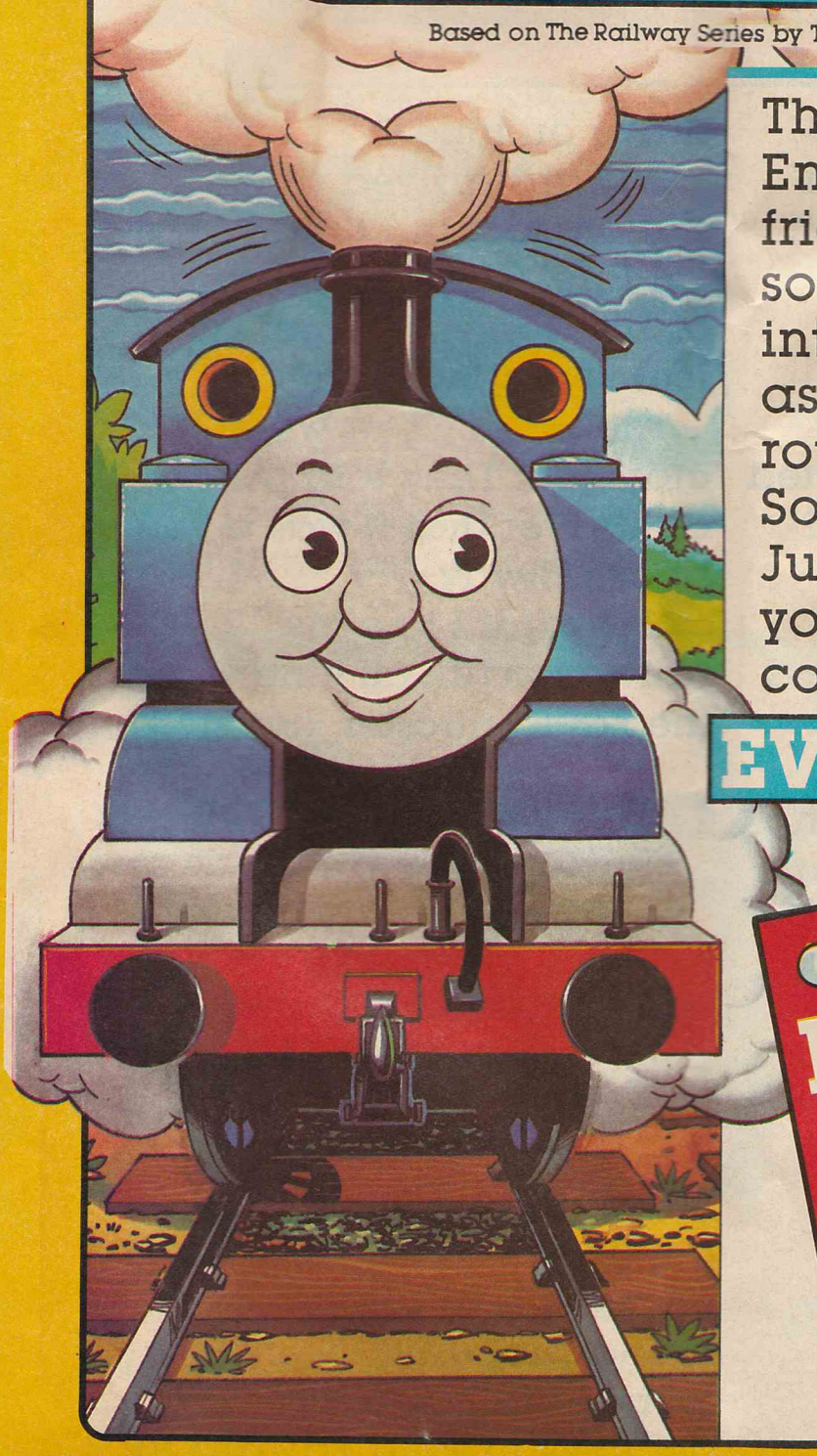


IT'S FUN TO LEARN WITH

THOMAS

THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Thomas the Tank Engine and his friends learn all sorts of interesting things as they puff round the Island of Sodor.
Jump aboard and you can come too!

EVERY MONTH!

Learning is fun with THOMAS!

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A read-aloud story!

Edward is Late!

Edward was working on Thomas's branch line while Thomas went to the maintenance shed to be cleaned and serviced.

The branch line is very important. Edward collected Thomas's passengers from the small stations and brought them to the big station to catch the Express.

Gordon was waiting for Edward to arrive. "This is disgraceful! Edward is ten minutes late!" said Gordon crossly. "How can I keep to my timetable if he doesn't arrive on time?"

passengers

Edward arrived at the station, looking tired. "Sorry I'm late, Gordon," he said, as his passengers got off. "I feel very slow today."

The passengers were cross too. They told the Fat Controller that it was a very poor railway.

"Edward! I like my railway to run on time," said the Fat Controller, crossly.

That same afternoon, Edward was late again.

"This is too much!" whistled Gordon shrilly. "I can't pull the Express without passengers! "

"Oh, dear," sighed Edward. "I can't help it. I get up enough steam, but my wheels refuse to go round properly."

The Fat Controller decided to send Edward to

the maintenance shed.

"Your brakes are sticking, Edward," said a workman. "We'll soon put you right. You won't be late any more."

But the next day, Edward **was** late again. Gordon was furious!

"Edward can't blame his brakes this time!" said Gordon, waiting impatiently at the station with the Express. "He's just a slow, old engine!"

The Fat Controller was beginning to think so too.

Edward finally arrived. The Fat Controller expected the passengers to be cross, but they were cheering Edward.

"Edward saved us all from a serious accident," explained his driver. "We were coming around a bend when Edward spotted a large boulder that had slipped down the bank onto the line. He shouted for us to stop and we did – just in time. The guard and I pushed the boulder off the track. That's why we're late."

"Well done, Edward!" said the Fat Controller. "You're a Really Useful Engine."

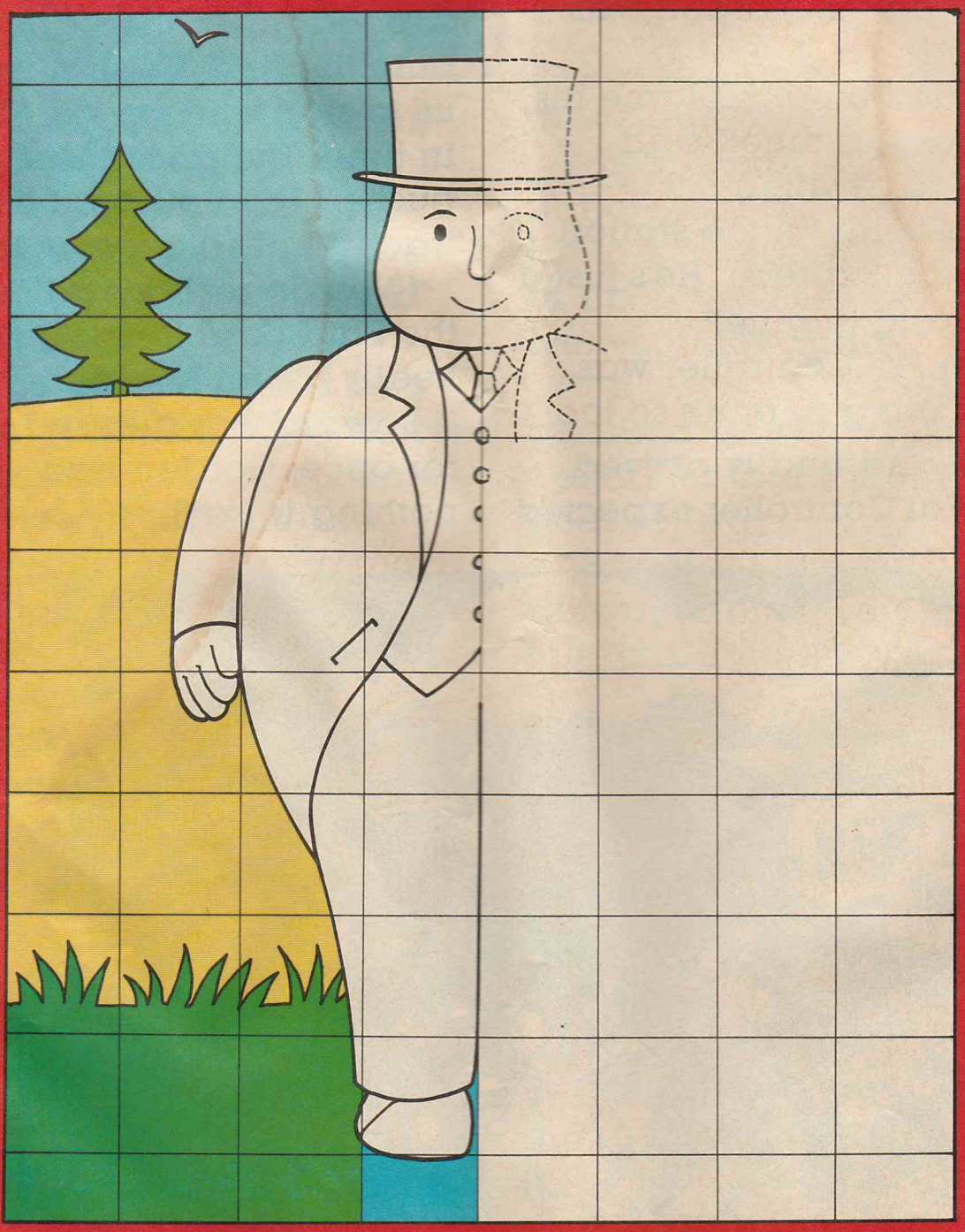
Edward was pleased. And for once, Gordon had nothing to say!

THE END

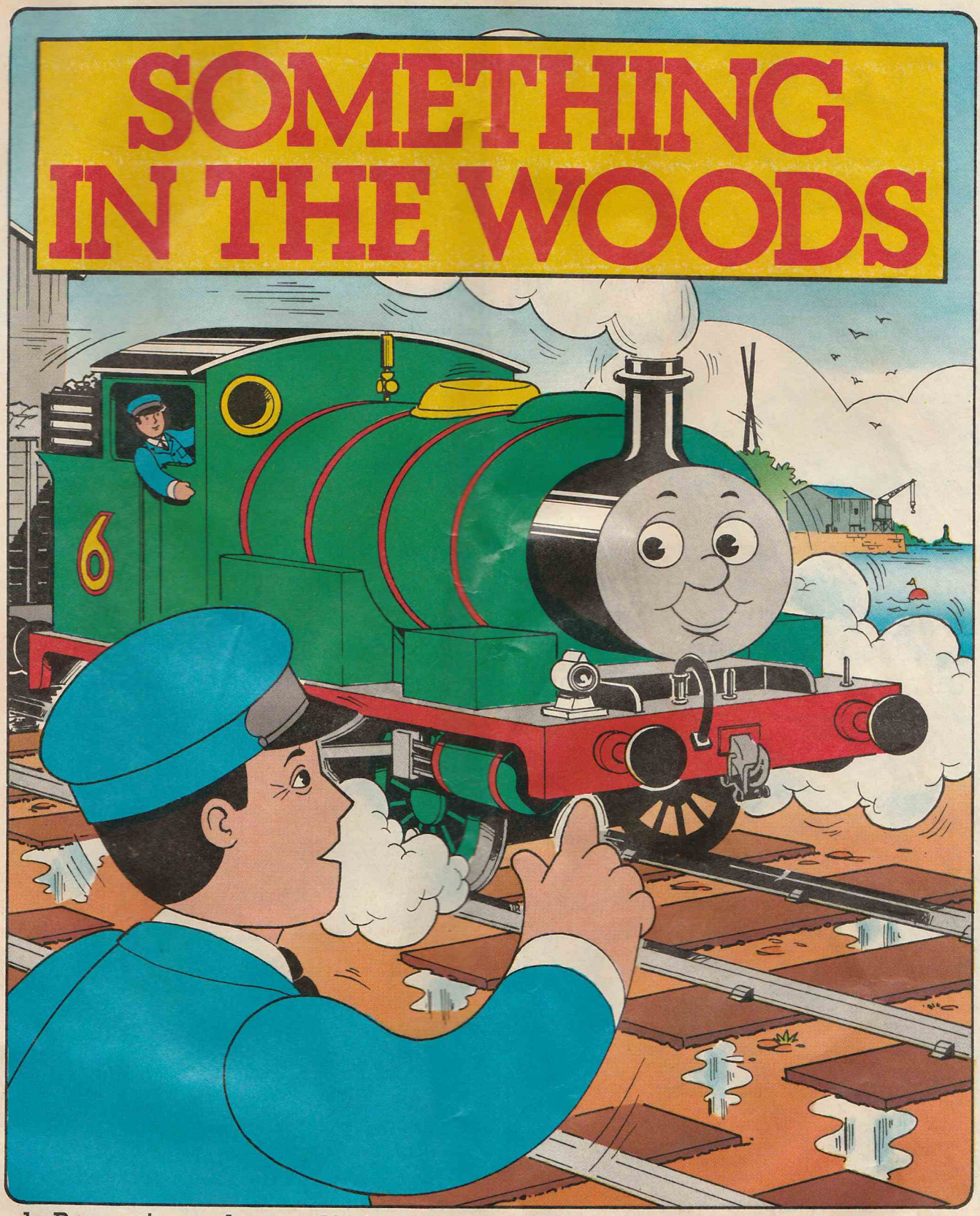
DRAW ME

Gracious me! Upon my soul!
The Fat Controller's not quite whole!

Use these dotted lines and boxes to finish this drawing – then make the picture complete by colouring in the half that you have just drawn!

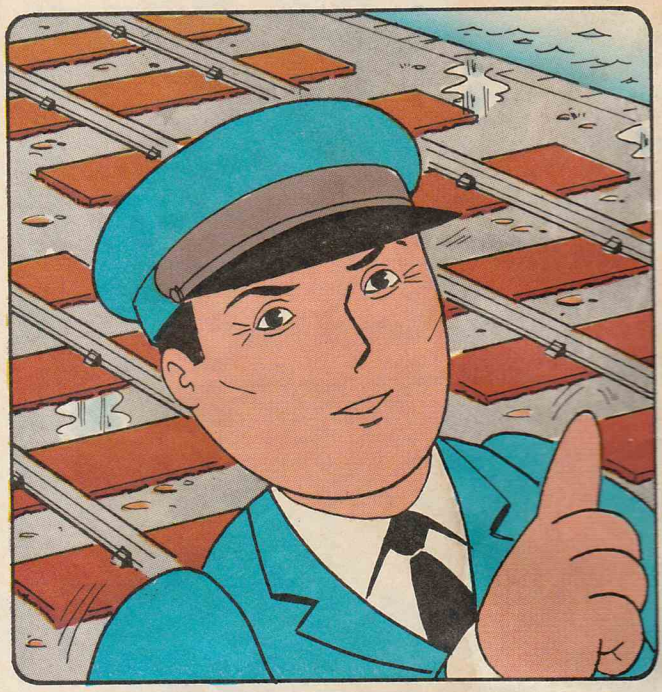


A listen and look story!

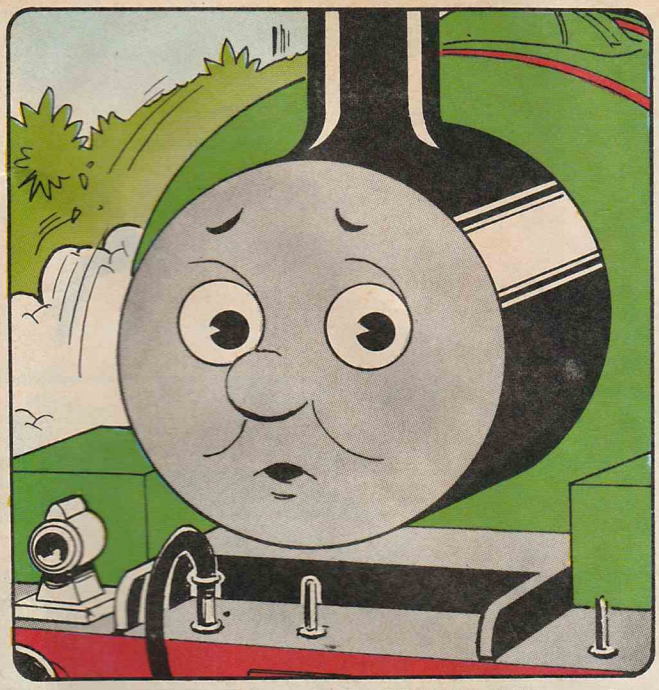


1. Percy is a cheery little tank engine. He often works in the yard down at the Big Harbour. He shunts the troublesome trucks about and keeps them in order.

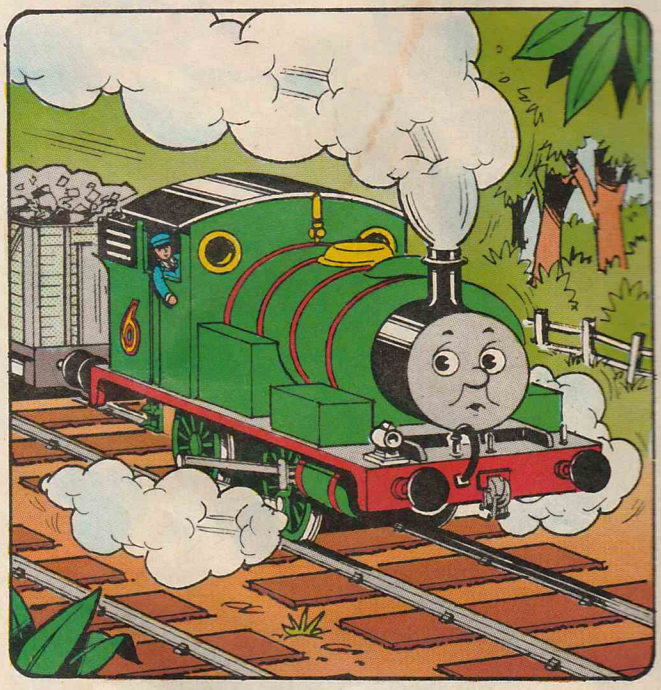
2. One morning the harbour stationmaster came to see Percy. "The Fat Controller has just phoned," he said. "Bill and Ben are running behind schedule."



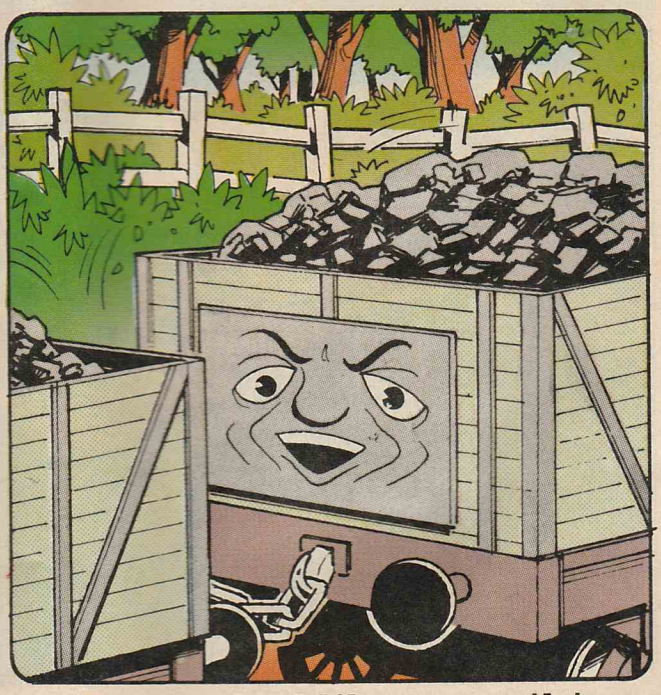
3. "You shall have to take their trucks up for them," he said. Percy was happy to take the trucks, until he realised that the line went through the Back Hill Woods.



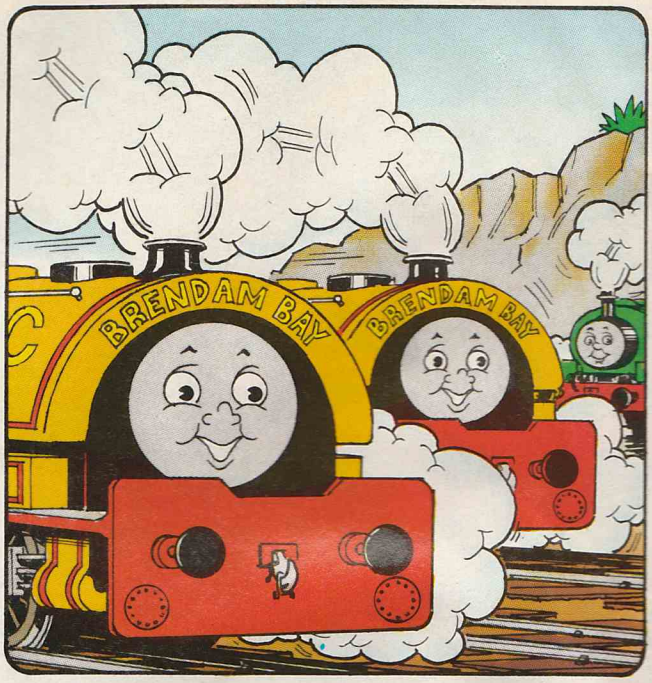
4. The Back Hill Woods were very dark and always made Percy frightened. Percy has been afraid of ghosts ever since he overheard the ghost train story.



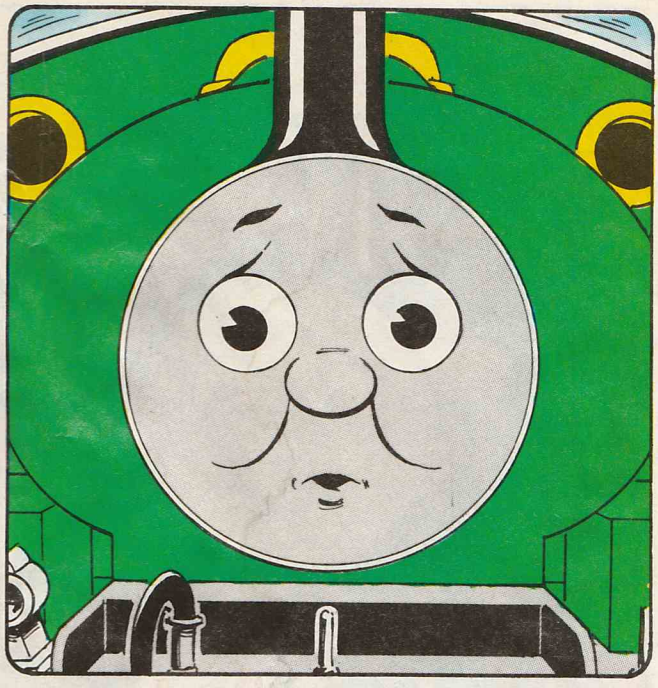
5. Percy was coupled to the trucks and headed off. He was nervous when he came to the woods, but everything was alright at first. Then Percy heard something . . .



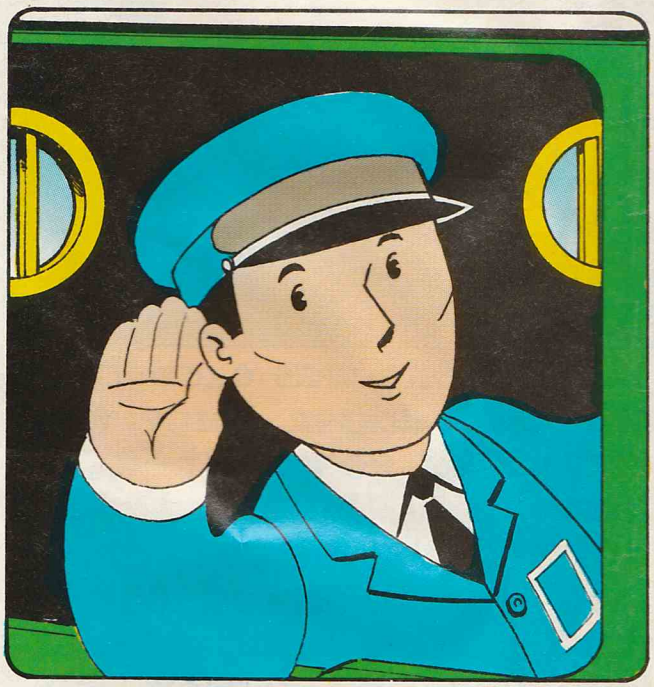
6. It sounded like something moaning! Percy was scared! He hurried the trucks along. "Come on! Come on!" called Percy. "Don't rush! Don't rush!" cried the trucks.



7. Percy was glad to get out of the woods. "What's the matter with you?" asked Bill and Ben when they saw Percy arrive. "You look like you have just seen a ghost!"



8. "I h-heard one," Percy explained. "B-back there in the woods!" Bill and Ben just laughed. Percy's driver did too. "I never should have told you that ghost story!"



9. Percy left the trucks and went on his way, but as he passed through the woods, he heard it again. "Th-there it is!" he cried. "That's not a ghost," said his driver.

10. "Let's stop and see what it is." "No thank you!" said Percy, but his driver put on the brakes. He climbed down and walked towards the moaning noise.

11. Percy's driver brought Percy back to the Big Harbour, where he collected a man from the RSPCA. Then Percy took them back up to the woods, to where they had found a poor badger caught in a snare. Its leg was cut and the man said that the badger needed looking after. It was lucky that Percy had heard its cry.

12. Everyone was excited to see the badger. Percy was very proud. He was a hero, at least until Bill and Ben arrived. "Where's your ghost then, Percy?" asked Bill. "I think that's a badger," said Ben. "Oh no," teased Bill, "Percy heard a ghost!" Percy felt very silly. He had told everybody the story, but he had left out the ghost!

THE END

In our next issue: Trevor helps out!